

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 stands provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 6 of co-pending Application No. 09/622,656. Since the rejection is provisional, Applicants elect to defer responding to the rejection until such time that a response becomes necessary, *i.e.*, when no other rejection remains.

Claim 1 further stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,314,454 to Wang et al. (hereinafter "Wang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,175,858 to Bulfer et al. (hereinafter "Bulfer"). Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish from the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment.

Further, new dependent claims 2–6 have been added by amendment.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32911US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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